

Schultz Cabin CT-1303

2095 Cherry Road, Scientists' Cliffs, Port Republic (Calvert County)

1941, private access

The Schultz Cabin near Port Republic, Maryland was constructed in 1941. It is a two-story rustic log cabin set within Scientists' Cliffs, a mid-twentieth century residential subdivision bordering on the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County. The Schultz Cabin features notched log frame construction, extensive fenestration on the primary facade, and an open interior plan that also has rusticated woodwork. The community of Scientists' Cliffs serves as an example of a twentieth century residential subdivision of vacation houses, with important landscape features. Scientists' Cliffs serves as a significant example of a twentieth century subdivision, an important property type in the history of American architecture and community planning. Scientists' Cliffs continues to serve as a unique historic resource that is distinctly different from the surrounding area.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1303

1. Name of Property

historic	Schultz Cabin
other	Stadelman Cabin

2. Location

street and number	2095 Cherry Road	___ not for publication
city, town	Port Republic	<u>x</u> vicinity
county	Calvert	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Steve and Renee Stadelman		
street and number	2095 Cherry Road	telephone	410.586.2912
city, town	Mount Rainier	state	MD zip code 20676

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	liber	folio
city, town	tax map 28A tax parcel Lot 43	tax ID number 0486

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: Scientists' Cliffs archival collection

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	Contributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ commerce/trade	Noncontributing
___ structure	___ both	___ landscape	Contributing <u>1</u>
___ site		___ recreation/culture	Noncontributing <u> </u> buildings
___ object		___ defense	Noncontributing <u> </u> sites
		<u>x</u> domestic	Noncontributing <u> </u> structures
		___ education	Noncontributing <u> </u> objects
		___ funerary	Noncontributing <u> </u> Total
		___ government	
		___ health care	Number of Contributing Resources
		___ industry	previously listed in the Inventory
		___ other:	<u>0</u>

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Schultz Cabin, near Port Republic, Maryland, was constructed in 1941, according to information from the original owners. It is a rustic log cabin, located within Scientists' Cliffs, a mid-twentieth century residential subdivision of vacation homes founded in 1935 bordering the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County. The Schultz Cabin features notched log frame construction and an open interior plan which also features rusticated woodwork. It is positioned atop a small ridge, which eventually slopes downward towards the Bay. A series of tall cliffs are located to the north of the subdivision. The property sits on a sloping open lot, with dense shrubbery and cover on the eastern elevation and a small driveway leading to the southeastern corner of the lot.

Scientists' Cliffs features narrow curvilinear dirt roads, limited access, and residential buildings of rusticated construction, within a densely landscaped setting, facing east towards Chesapeake Bay. The subdivision also features a community center and mature, dense foliage, as well as other landscaping elements including bamboo and shrubbery.

Oriented toward the east, the cabin is two stories tall with a partially exposed concrete block basement and except where noted is clad with horizontal half-timber logs. It is three bays long (originally two) and has an asymmetrical gable roof, where the west side slopes more drastically to the first story, with a deep overhang and covered in asphalt shingles. The northern bay was added circa 1961, the second story of which differs from that of the main block in that it is recessed on the east and west façades and extends slightly above the roof line. Also, it is covered with vertical board and batten siding and a low pitch gable roof. A tapering field stone chimney rises above the roofline on the west side of the ridge line, roughly in the center of the center bay. A second stone chimney pierces and rises above the roof just to the east of the addition ridgeline.

The primary, eastern façade features large sixteen-paned single sash vinyl replacement windows on the first story of the main block and two pairs of nine-paned single sash vinyl replacement windows on the second, arranged symmetrically about the center of the main block. On the basement level, there are a series of three sliding glass windows also arranged symmetrically and located in the center and toward the ends of the main block, each of which is surrounded by a window well. The east façade of the addition continues the band of large window openings found on the first floor with four six over six double hung vinyl replacement windows. The second story of the addition is recessed for the length of the third bay and features a symmetrically placed sliding glass door. The roof extends to the edge of the main block, creating a covered porch/balcony area that is defined by wood posts and railings; the railing wraps the corner and continues onto the north side. The basement level of the addition is fully exposed, with the east elevation recessed and in the same plane as that of the second story and also clad in vertical boards and battens. The overhang of the first story is supported by a log post in the center and northeast corner of the bay.

The south elevation contains two doorways toward the west and east ends, with a five panel door and a three panel door with a nine pane window in each respective opening. Flanking the western entry to the

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west is a hinged nine-pane single sash window. On the east side of the eastern opening is a pair of sixteen-paned single sash vinyl replacement windows. Between the two doorways, there is a band of three hinged nine-pane single sash windows. On the second story, there is a fixed nine-pane window placed symmetrically beneath the gable peak and a pair of fixed nine-pane windows located toward the eastern end. The east and west corners feature exaggerated cross notching. Just to the west of the eastern opening there is another area of cross notching is evidences a formerly semi-enclosed porch that once extended the length of the main block, now completely enclosed by the vinyl replacement windows.

The west elevation of the main block is one story high and contains three window openings, two of which contain a fixed nine-pane window, located roughly in the center of the elevation and toward the north end of the main block. A smaller, fixed six-pane window is located in the upper level towards the west end of the elevation. Beneath the northern window there is a single sliding glass window on the basement level. The west elevation of the addition is clad with vertical board and batten siding on both the first and second story. A low pitch shed roof provides a transition between the first story and the recessed elevation of the second. The first story contains two single sash sliding windows while the second story has one such centrally placed window. Another single sash sliding window is located on the basement level.

Additions built in 1961 include a projecting wood deck with wood posts and railings that extends along a portion of the north elevation first story. A pair of sixteen-paned single sash vinyl replacement windows is located on the first floor, in the area not covered by the deck. The deck is accessed by a pair of sliding glass doors. A second pair of sliding glass doors is located on the basement level, directly beneath those on the first floor. The second story contains a pair of large single sash sliding windows placed symmetrically around the ridgeline towards the east and west ends.

The building interior features many rustic wood details and an open plan which further emphasizes the natural setting. All floors are wood planking. The southeastern entrance opens into the area that was once the semi-enclosed porch. The windows of the original east elevation are set on vertical hinges so that they may be hooked to the ceiling. To the west of the enclosed porch is a large open living space with tall ceilings extending to the roof. The living space features a tall, wide fireplace built of rough-laid sandstone. A rusticated thin log runs the length of the room. A small kitchen space, with original fixtures, is set to the west of the living space. The kitchen space opens into a small corridor extending along the western end of the building, opening into a small pantry and bathroom, then into a rectangular room with sliding doors within the addition. Horizontal log construction and a glass paned window separating the addition are indications of the original exterior wall. A stairway in the addition leads to an unfinished basement.

The living space on the first floor displays a narrow set of stairs leading to the second story. The staircase features finished rusticated natural "stick" construction for railings. The stick railings are continued on

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the second story, with vertical log posts and cross bracing, defining a loft space of the east side of the structure which overlooks the living space and terminates in a small bedroom area on the southern elevation. To the north of the stairway, a short set of steps leads to a bedroom in the addition.

Alterations to the property include the incorporation of a two-story addition on the northern elevation, circa 1961, the enclosure of the first floor exterior porch, and window replacements.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1941 **Architect/Builder** Schultz, Joseph Showalter

Construction dates 1941, c. 1961

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Shultz Cabin is set within Scientists' Cliffs. The community of Scientists' Cliffs serves as an example of a progressive twentieth century residential subdivision with important landscape features. The Schultz Cabin was built in 1941 by the father of Gloria, Marna, and Jim Schultz, who were part-time residents in their youth. The cabin was rented during World War II to officers stationed at nearby Coast Guard and Navy bases. An addition was constructed by Joseph Showalter in the early 1961. The cabin has continually served as a residence.

Scientists' Cliffs was founded in 1935 by George "Flipppo" Gravatt and his wife, Annie Evelyn Rathburn, who were both forest pathologists at the Department of Agriculture. Flipppo Gravatt was familiar with the area due to his extensive studies of a collection of nearby blighted American Chestnut trees. Starting with an initial allocation of 238 acres in 1935 (purchased from Marmaduke White of Baltimore), the Gravatts acquired more than 750 acres by 1961. The original purchase area includes portions of the Scientists' Cliffs community known as Gates B and C.

Flipppo Gravatt founded Scientists' Cliffs with the intention of creating an affordable vacation and residential community that would also promote the protection of the natural environment and advancement of science. In the fall of 1935, Flipppo Gravatt hosted a picnic for his fellow plant scientists at the Department of Agriculture. At the site of the future subdivision, Gravatt announced the formation of an exclusive community of scientists and their families. Gravatt and Rathburn built the first house on the site in the spring of 1936, known as "Chestnut Cabin" (which now serves as a community center), out of blight-killed chestnut trees. Following the construction of the Chestnut Cabin, Gravatt constructed five small cabins for the use of day and weekend guests, many of whom were "sold" on the community and became eventual members and owners. The Scientists' Cliffs Association was officially incorporated in 1937 with the mission of promoting interest in the natural sciences, maintaining a library and fossil museum, protecting natural areas, and organizing scientific lectures and field trips. The fossils at Scientists' Cliffs also served as a research interest, and many of the fossils have been incorporated into the fireplaces of homes throughout the community. The Scientists' Cliffs Association initially included restrictive bylaws in which all members (property owners) were required to be scientists. This bylaw was

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later relaxed to include those with college degrees, and then to include those without formal college education but who had demonstrated professional distinction. The community was popular as a summer family vacation area, and has gained an increasing number of year-round residents. The Scientists' Cliffs community now includes over 200 residences.

Horticulture was a central focus in the landscape design of Scientists' Cliffs. In addition to maintaining undeveloped woodlands, this activity consisted of planting filberts, bamboo, figs, blight-resistant hybrid Chinese chestnuts, grapes, and fruit trees. Additionally, over 70 varieties of azaleas were planted at the site. The community itself was founded as a result of Flippo Gravatt's interest in horticultural pathology, and the blighted trees on site were used to construct some of the earliest buildings. Landscape architecture is an important historic theme at Scientists' Cliffs – which is evident in both the master planning and siting of houses within the existing natural setting – as well as in the highly unusual variety of horticultural elements.

Cabins and houses were not only set within an existing natural setting, but were also built from logs cut and milled at an onsite mill. "The decision was for log construction. A sawmill that produced logs was installed. The first few cabins were built of blight-killed chestnut. Subsequent cabins were built of tulip poplar or pine logs. In the mid-fifties log construction gave way to wood siding." Flippo Gravatt brought Harold Matteson to Scientists' Cliffs to run the sawmill and provide construction services. Matteson's father also built furniture and interior cabinets for many of the early homes. Bert Miles also built several early homes. Dickey Wallace undertook the construction of unique sandstone fireplaces for several early homes. Gravatt also brought Joseph Showalter, who had served as a plant pathologist at Virginia Polytechnic, to build homes and to run the nursery, which included over 70 varieties of azaleas.¹

Scientists' Cliffs served as an early attempt to create a residential community that operated on a sustainable ecological philosophy. Such an ecological philosophy was distinctly different from large-scale "tract" residential subdivisions common to the early and mid twentieth century – however, the notions of social progress expressed by the founders and residents of Scientists' Cliffs were part of an important trend of Progressivism, a broad social movement that sought alternative strategies for urban communities that was particularly active during the 1930s. This Progressive notion has been maintained by an active community organization at Scientists' Cliffs. A contemporary local history notes that "the original effort, maintained throughout the years, was to create a very different sort of community, one that would be as simple and inexpensive as possible, a place where people of comparable means and similar tastes might relax beside the Bay."²

¹ "A Dream Realized," 3.

² Ibid, 3.

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The Scientists' Cliffs community was affected by World War II, as fuel for the long motor trips from Washington DC was rationed, and many owners rented cabins to nearby servicemen. After World War II, Scientists' Cliffs Road, leading to the community from Route 4, which was a narrow, dirt and gravel unfinished roadway, was widened and improved. Scientists' Cliffs reflected the important and transformative role played by automotive transportation in the development of residential and vacation communities.³

Flippo Gravatt worked closely with the early builders and contractors in the construction and development of Scientists' Cliffs. The development features common spaces (including the Chestnut Cabin, as well as a later swimming pool addition to replace a swimming hole), an ecological natural style (slightly different from the more deliberate picturesque movement) and a cohesive building type. In addition, information regarding Flippo Gravatt, who served as founder and developer, as well as the social goals of the founding community, allows Scientists' Cliffs to be considered as an important site in the suburban development of the United States.

³ Gloria Schultz Leppi, "The Rope Swings and Other Early Memories of Scientists' Cliffs," n.d., 1, 4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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"A Dream Realized: A History of the Scientists' Cliffs Association 1937-1987" unpublished.

Ames, David L. *Context and Guidelines for Evaluating America's Historic Suburbs for the National Register of Historic Places*. Draft. 1996. .

Chase, Susan, David Ames and Rebecca Siders 1992. *Suburbanization in the Vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware, 1880-1950+/-*. Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

Gloria Schultz Leppi "The Rope Swings and Other Early Memories of Scientists' Cliffs" n.d

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .315

Acreage of historical setting .315

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the surveyed property is marked as Tax Map 28A, Parcel 43 and a portion of Parcel 44. The existing Parcel is concurrent with the historic setting, and includes character-defining resources and setting which relate to the property's construction and evolution.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Caleb Christopher, Architectural Historian , revised by Craig Tuminaro, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3.1.03, 5.03.04
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	301.258.5897
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

DECK

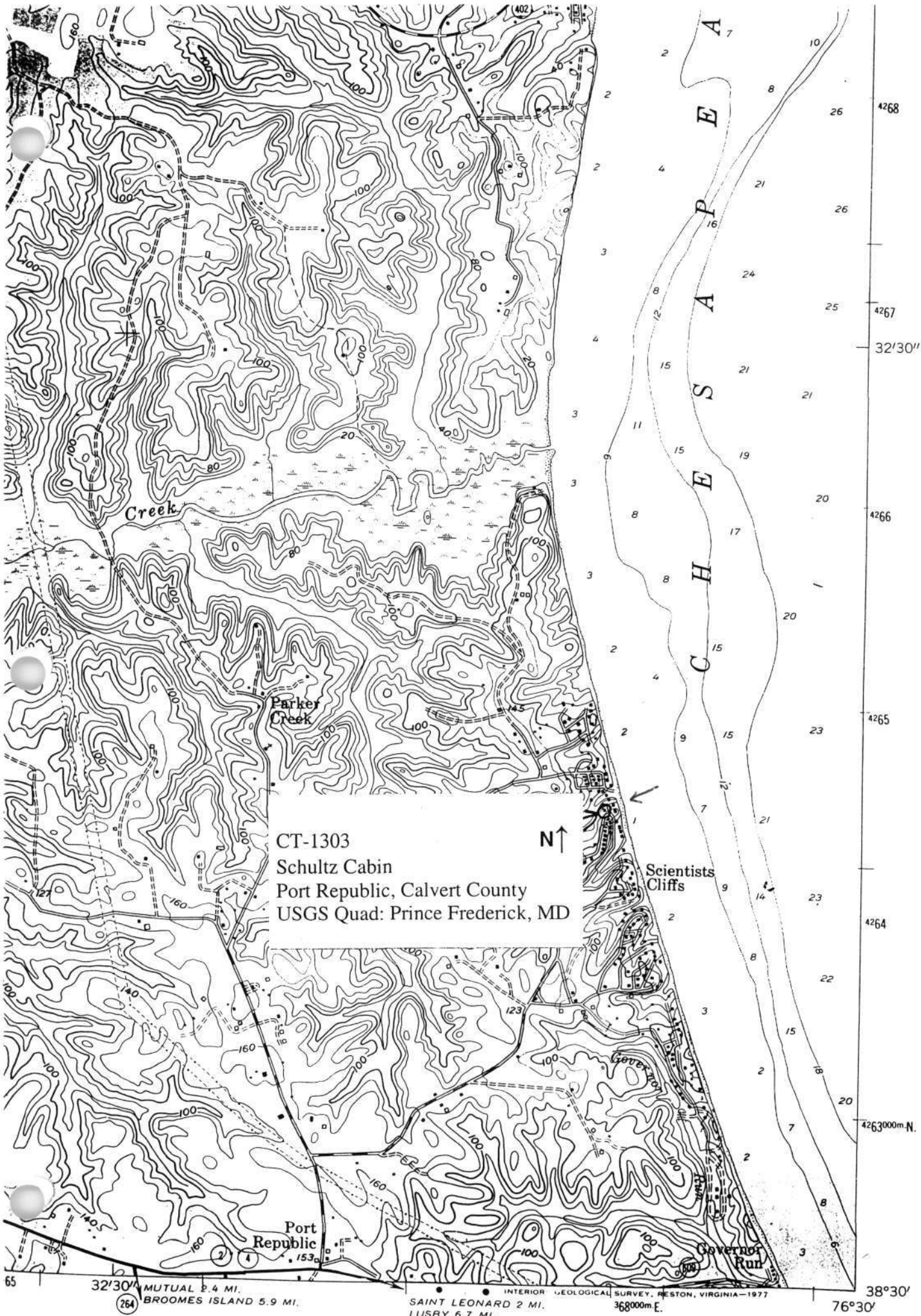
ADDITION

RESIDENCE

CHIMNEY

N 1'

CT-1303
SCHULTZ CABIN
PORT REPUBLIC, CALVERT COUNTY
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
NOT TO SCALE





5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 0038

001

GT-1303

SCHULTZ CABIN

CANWELL, MD

CANWELL, CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

EAST FACADE

1 OF 8

66557



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 3 0038

005

CT-1303

SCHULTZ CARIN

CAWERT, MD

CALES CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

EAST FACIADIE

2 OF 8

66561



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN 0 0038

006

CT-1303

SCHULTZ CABIN

CAWERT, MD

CAWCH CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 OF 8

66562



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 5 0038

004

CT-1303

SCHULTZ CABIN

CANWYET, MD

CALUS CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

4 OF 8

66560



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN-14 0038

003

CT-1303
SCHULTZ CABIN
CALVERT, MD
CAROL CHRISTOPHER
11/2002
NEGATIVE MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

5 OF 8

66559



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 8 0038

002

GT-1303

SCHULTZ CASIN

CAWDET, MD

CALAB CHRISTIAN

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

6 of 8

66558



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 3 0038

007

CT-1303

SCHULTZ CARLIN

CALVERT, MD

CALVER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE MD SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW OF
ENCLOSED PORCH

66563 7 of 8



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 1 0038

008

CT-1303

SCHULTZ CARIN

CAWERT, MD

CALEB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW

OF LIVING ROOM

8 of 8

66564